

WE CLAIM

1. A handle for a medical device, comprising:

an inner handle member having proximal and distal ends;

5 a first outer handle member slideably disposed on the distal end of the inner handle member;

an elongate sheath attached to the inner handle member and axially extending beyond the distal end, the sheath defining a sheath lumen; and

a stylet attached to the first outer handle member and disposed in the sheath lumen.

10 2. A handle according to claim 1, further comprising a connector on the second outer handle member, the connector having adaptations to connect said handle to said medical device.

15 3. A handle according to claim 1, wherein the inner handle member defines a handle lumen.

4. A handle according to claim 3, wherein the stylet is disposed in the handle lumen and extends into the sheath lumen.

20 5. A handle according to claim 1, further comprising means for fixing an axial position of the inner handle member relative to the second outer handle member.

25 6. A handle according to claim 5, wherein the means for fixing comprises an engaging member extending through a thickness of the second outer handle member.

30 7. A handle according to claim 6, wherein the engaging member comprises a thumbscrew.

8. A handle according to claim 1, further comprising a stop on the inner handle member that limits axial movement of the inner handle member relative to the second outer handle member.

5 9. A handle according to claim 8, wherein the stop comprises a projection defined by the inner handle member.

10 10. A handle according to claim 9, wherein the stop comprises a circumferential projection.

11. A handle according to claim 1, further comprising a first series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member.

15 12. A handle according to claim 11, wherein each gradation of the first series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath.

20 13. A handle according to claim 11, further comprising a second series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member.

25 14. A handle according to claim 13, wherein each gradation of the first series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined first length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath, and each gradation of the second series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined second length by which the sheath extends axially beyond a distal end of the second outer handle member.

30 15. A handle according to claim 1, further comprising a slideable member disposed on the inner handle member and adapted to be locked on the inner handle member.

16. A handle according to claim 15, wherein the slideable member is disposed between the first and second outer handle members.

17. A handle according to claim 15, wherein the slideable member comprises a mechanical stop that limits axial movement of the first outer handle member along the inner handle member.

18. A handle according to claim 15, further comprising a series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, wherein the slideable member defines an aperture disposed over a portion of the series of gradations.

19. A handle according to claim 18, wherein each gradation of the series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath.

20. A handle according to claim 15, wherein the inner handle member comprises a plurality of stops that define discrete positions on the inner handle member at which the slideable member can be disposed.

21. A handle according to claim 20, wherein the slideable member interacts with the plurality of stops to produce a sound when the slideable member is moved axially along the inner handle member.

22. A handle for a medical device comprising:  
an inner handle member;  
first and second outer handle members slideably disposed on the inner handle member;  
an elongate sheath attached to the inner handle member and defining a sheath lumen;  
a stylet attached to the first outer handle member and disposed in the sheath lumen; and

a series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, each gradation of the series of gradations corresponding to a predetermined length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath.

5           23. A handle according to claim 22, further comprising a second series of gradations, each gradation of the second series of gradations corresponding to a predetermined second length by which the sheath extends axially beyond a distal end of the second outer handle member.

10           24. A handle for a medical device comprising:  
an inner handle member having proximal and distal ends and defining a handle lumen;

a first outer handle member slideably disposed on the proximal end;

a second outer handle member slideably disposed on the distal end;

15           an elongate sheath attached to the inner handle member and axially extending beyond the distal end, the sheath defining a sheath lumen;

a stylet attached to the first outer handle member, the stylet extending through the handle lumen and into the sheath lumen;

20           a first series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, each gradation of the first series of gradations corresponding to a predetermined first length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath; and

25           a second series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, each gradation of the second series of gradations corresponding to a predetermined second length by which the sheath extends axially beyond a distal end of the second outer handle member.

25. A medical device assembly comprising:

a medical device defining a working lumen; and

30           a handle, the handle comprising an inner handle member having proximal and distal ends, a first outer handle member slideably disposed on the proximal end, a second outer handle member slideably disposed on the distal end,

an elongate sheath attached to the inner handle member and axially extending beyond the distal end and into the working lumen of the medical device, the sheath defining a sheath lumen, and a stylet attached to the first outer handle member and disposed in the sheath lumen.

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26. A medical device assembly according to claim 25, wherein the medical device comprises an endoscope.

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27. A medical device assembly according to claim 25, wherein the second outer handle member is attached to the medical device.

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28. A medical device assembly according to claim 26, further comprising a first series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, wherein each gradation of the first series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined length by which the stylet extends axially beyond a distal end of the sheath.

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29. A medical device assembly according to claim 27, further comprising a second series of gradations disposed on the inner handle member, wherein each gradation of the second series of gradations corresponds to a predetermined second length by which the sheath extends axially beyond a distal end of the working lumen.